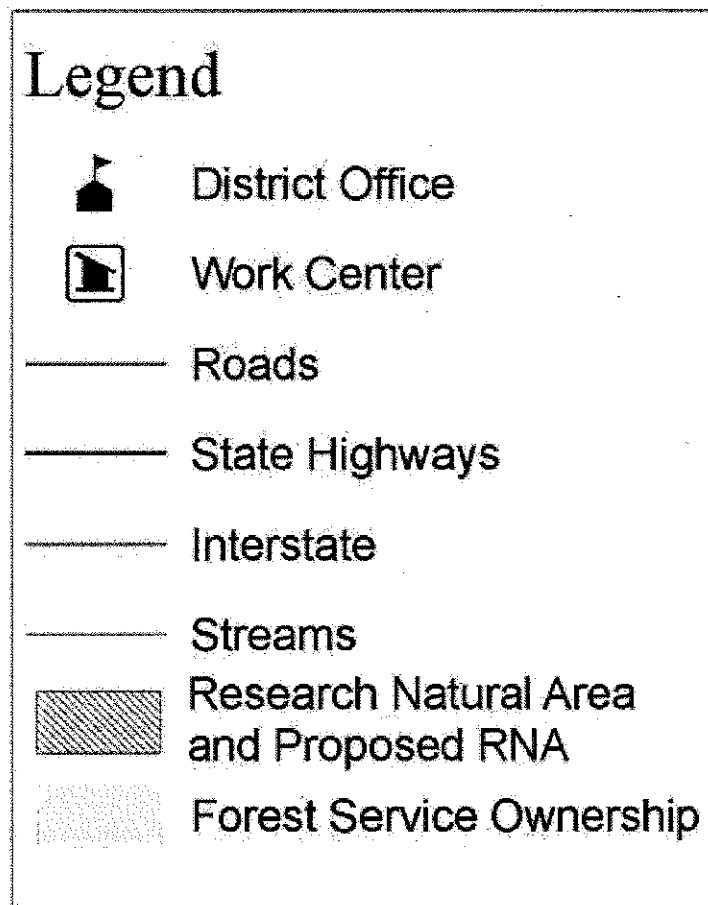


D.3.2 Proposed Nutmeg Hickory Research Natural Area (Bienville National Forest):

This calcareous variant of floodplain forest ecological system was proposed for establishment as a research natural area. It is a mature wet-mesic floodplain forest dominated by mature specimens of native prairie forest species such as nutmeg hickory, Durand oak, and big shellbark hickory. As a research natural area, this area provides undisturbed base line areas to monitor changes in natural conditions associated with management of similar areas and serves as an area in which natural biological diversity is conserved. The nomination and evaluation process has been completed for this research natural area. Further, a decision to dedicate this area as a research natural area was made on September 22, 2003 by the regional forester. However, final public notification was not completed previously. This area is being formally designated through this forest plan revision.



Legend for Figure D 34